



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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SURVEY TO DETERMINE FUEL USE BY BOATERS

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Constance B. Harriman today announced that the Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard under the Department of Transportation will undertake a survey to determine the amounts and types of fuel used annually by recreational boaters.

Taxes collected on total fuel sales, including those paid on fuel used by recreational boaters, are deposited in the Highway Trust Fund. Based on an estimated figure of fuel sales directly attributable to boats, a percentage of the total tax receipts is transferred from the Highway Trust Fund to the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. Monies in this account, commonly called the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund, are used for sport fish restoration, boating safety programs, and improved boating access facilities.

In announcing the survey, Harriman said, "I concur with President Bush that the Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund is the model 'user-pay--user-benefit' program. America's boaters and anglers willingly pay this tax. We want to make certain that the amount of money transferred from the Highway Trust Fund to Wallop-Breaux is in line with the amount of tax revenue actually generated."

Congress directed the Departments of the Interior and Transportation to undertake the survey as part of the 1988 Wallop-Breaux reauthorization, and authorized use of the private sector to conduct it. Price Waterhouse, Inc., was awarded the survey contract. The survey is scheduled to begin in January 1991 and a final report must be submitted to Congress by November 1992. Price Waterhouse will use boater registration lists as well as random telephone sampling to carry out the survey.